LEHIGH VALLEY ATARI XE XL ST XEGS USERS GROUP

L.V.A.U.G. NEWS

MEMBER OF NEAR US

JULY-AUGUST-1995

ISSUE #4

North East Atari Regional User Support Group
An alliance of Atari User Groups predominately from the Northeast area of the United States. NEARUS was organized to provide a network of communications between people who would not ordinarily get together but have common problems and concerns. A BBS network is set up, and a common newsletter issued periodically is planned. This gives us a broad base of die hard Atari users sharing their problems,concerns, and knowledge.
User groups in Canada and as far away as Germany have shown an interest in NEARUS.
The following list of BBS's support NEARUS, with more joining in the near future.

ABUG Reading area 610-779-7859
ACUTE Lehigh Valley,PA 610-261-0620
Bit Byters Germany-LIAUG 516-221-8562
Help Key Allentown area 610-868-4856
JACG New Jersey 201-298-0161
LIAUG Long Island NY 516-221-8462
NEAT Northeast PA 215-335-4805
Ol'Hackers NewYork 516-221-8462
RACE New York 516-221-8462
SAGE Erie PA 814-833-4073
SJACE New Jersey 609-931-3014
STARR Connecticut 203-421-4861

Editors' note: We made every effort to include all known suporting BBS's, if any were left out, it was not done intentionally. Any additions or corrections are most welcome and will be so recorded in the following newsletter.



LVAUG ADVERTIZING RATES



	Members	Non Members
Full Page	$20	$40
Half Page	$12	$25
Quarter Page	$7	$15
Eighth Page	$5	$10
Classified		
3 lines	Free	$3
5 Lines	Free	$4



ATARI 800XL

MEMBERSHIP FEES
Family Membership-$13.00
Student " - $7.00
Regular " -$10.00
Dues are per year as listed.

JUNE 1, 1995 MEETING NOTES

Meeting called to order and opened in due form by President Art Paolini Jr.

*Vice-President Jon Mordosky reported that "Toad Computer" has its' CD Roms out for Atari. Current Notes is changing hands and intends to keep publishing. On June 17th there will be another NEAR*US meeting over in New York will have demos, a swap meet and some quest speakers. If you want to go along contact Jon Mordosky for further details and where to meet for the trip.*
Atari Navy is getting ready to sail very soon, contact either Jon or Art for details about the Atari Navy and its' sailing dates.

Club disk for the month has 36 fonts with a program called Font Master and other side has more fonts that are compatible with Font Master.

Art demoed Touch EditorII on the 8-bit, you can edit fonts and make icons with it.

Bill Folsom demoed a program called Hidden Word on the 8-bit can do word puzzles and helps with learning to spell and numerous other educational things and he is going to continue working on this program to further improve it, his son has done projects with it for his school projects.

Art demoed commerical game for the 8-bit by Lucas called "Rescue on Fractalus", quite an excellent spaceship game with aliens and good guys and lots of interesting space travel a very interesting game.

Rich Kohn brought in a light gun he had found at an auction made by APRICOT computer company of England.

Don Stanmore brought in an Epson printer he had bought at an auction and Jon and Art got it working for him, they intend to bring some Epson instruction books to help Don further with the printer as it appears to be a very good printer. Good luck with it Don.

That is all the meeting notes for this time folks.

Larry Tischbein
Secretary



Dive into writing an article

Success is rising one more time than you fall.

Ideas are funny little things--they
won't work unless you do.

Software to find security gaps bedevils some Computer Experts

Computer security experts,could be in for a devil of a time from SATAN when its creator distributes it free on the Internet today.

SATAN is a new piece of software designed to find security gaps in computer systems and make them harder to crack, and Dan Farmer and his partner are releasing it depsite fears that hackers will use it to execute break-ins.

"As far as abuse goes, I think it will actually decrease because people can make better decisions about improving their security." Farmer said yesterday.

SATAN, which stands for Security Adminstratiors Tool for Analyzing Networks, lets people run computer systems directly linked to the Internet find security holes.

While there have been similiar progrms, and serious hackers are already familiar with ways of breaking into computer systems, experts say SATAN is significant because it is easy enough for novices to use.

Youngsters could easily play computer pranks, on-lne vandals could scramble a hospital's medical records and white-collar criminals could steal corporate secrets, said Donn Parker, a computer security consultant with SRI International, a consulting company in Menlo Park.

"It's like any other powerful tool: It can be used for great good and great harm." Parker said.

Farmer, who lives in San Francisco, developed SATAN with Wietse Venema, a security expert at the University of Eindhoven in the Netherlands. They first planned to release the program on the Internet on April 1.

Then they realized the day unoffically set aside for pranks fell on a Saturday, so they pushed the release date to April 5, Farmer's 33rd birthday.

Parker said Farmer should have sold SATAN only to experts guarding computer systems, and he disputed the argument that SATAN will help protect against electronic intrusion.

Experts agree that the average home computer user won't be affected, and the military's computers holding classified information are isolated and also are not at risk.

But SATAN's impending release has prompted government agencies and business to take steps against electronic intrusions.

Computer security experts at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory near San Franciso have developed a program that alerts computer operators to SATAN attacks.

Hewlett-Packard Co., one of several corporations that have already tested SATAN, has warned customers about it.

Reports about SATAN led to a disagreement between Farmer, a computer security expert, and his employer, Silicon Graphics Inc. in Mountain View. Farmer quit last month over what a company vice president, Bill Kelly, described as a difference in philosophies.



WHAT DOES A MEMBER OWE TO THE G-R-O-U-P?

By George Mueden as orginally appeared in HACE newsletter, 11/91.

A user group exists for mutual helpfulness. All members contribute to the success of the group. Here are some of the things a member should do to help the group.

Come to the meetings regardless of your interest in the announced presentations. If you and others don't show, it deprives the group of discussion participants and of those who might answer questions come up during the discussion period.

Speak up when it is appropriate and keep quiet when that is appropriate. Only interrupt with a question when it is sure to be help to the group as a whole. If the question isn't of help to the whole group, save it for later.

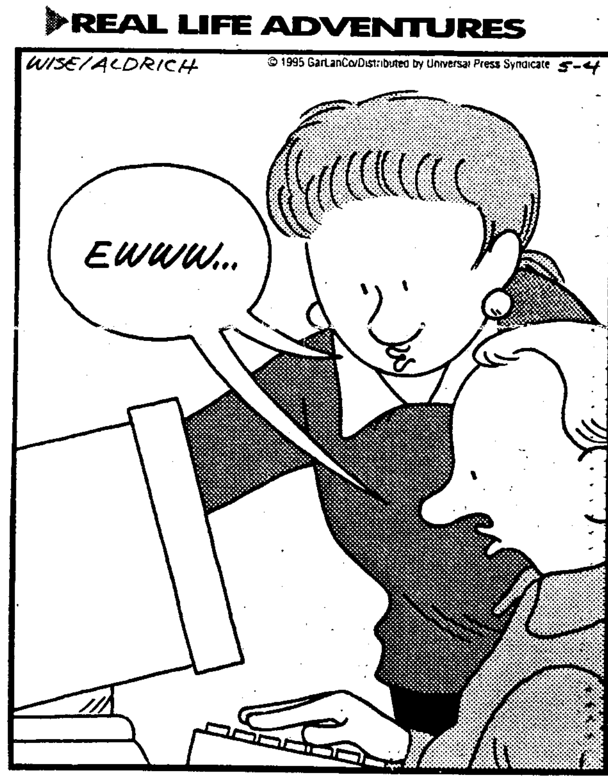
Help with chores. Every group has chores that can be done by entrants. If you came to help, don't hang back in giving it. Instead look for ways to help. Come early and help set up, stay late and help clean up. Doing this is a good way to make friends-- and friends are more likely to help you than strangers.

Be a self starter. If you learn something that might help others, pass it on. Let others know our interests.

Volunteer when your "fearless leader" asks for help; he wouldn't ask for help if he didn't need it.

If you can't come ahead of time at least be on time. "Should we start" is a question that should never have to be asked.

(Editor's note: LVAUG exists to help you, the member, but without YOUR help in return there would be no Users Group. So please lend a hand when and where you can to ensure that we will continue to be here when you really need us.)



Gawkers at a horrible crash on the information superhighway.

It take very little effort to watch the other fellow carry the load.

Conscience is what hurts when everything else feels good.

Science Students Say
The Darndest Things
Washington Post
14 December 93

Richard Lederer, author of "Anguished English," has compiled a list of scientific bloopers written by students at the junior, high school, and college levels. Among them are: "When you smell an odorless gas, it is probably carbon monoxide"; "Nitrogen is not found in Ireland because it is not found in a free state"; "Three kinds of blood vessels are arteries, vanes and caterpillars"; and finally, "The body consists of three parts--the brainum, the borax and the abominable cavity. The brainum contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abominable cavity contains the vowels, of which there are five--a,e,i,o, and u".

COMPUTER NET
AIDS AILING
ON-LINE SENIOR

The Associated Press

BOSTON--She's 68 and slowed by Parkinson's Disease, but Ilene Weinberg roams the world of computer networks like a spry teen-ager.

So her on-line friends knew there was something wrong last week when Weinberg's normally sunny chatter became garbled on their computer.

And somehow they found a way to send help--even though they didn't know her real name or where she lived.

"I was in trouble, more trouble than I wanted to be in alone." Weinberg said. "I just put the capitals on and I said: 'PLEASE EVERYBODY LISTEN.'"

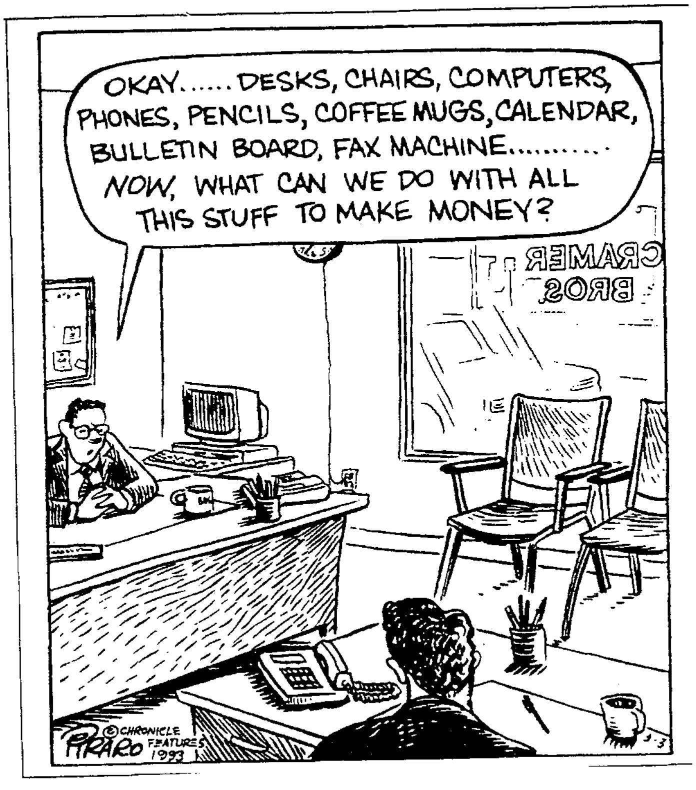
Weinberg kept typing, disoriented and shaking from a bad mix of medication. The next thing she knew the phone rang.

"It was the police and they said they were sending an ambulance."

The tricky part was finding Weinberg, because her unseen saviors knew her only by the alias she uses on the SeniorNet computer bulletin board.

They pierced together her identity using what they knew from earlier conversations and from a computer directory of network members.

Her problem turned out to be minor.



If you want a rainbow, you have to put up with the rain.

WHAT IS ELECTRICITY?

Today's scientific question is: What in the world is electricity? And where does it go after it leaves the toaster?

There is a simple experiment that will teach you an important electrical lesson: On a cool,dry day, scuff your feet along a carpet, then reach your hand into a friend's mouth and touch one of his dental fillings. Did you notice how your friend twitched violently and cried out in pain? This teaches us that electricity can be a very powerful force, but we must never use it to hurt others, unless we need to learn an important electrical lesson.

It also teaches us how an electrical circuit works. When you scuffed your feet, you picked up bunches of "electrons," which are very small objects the carpet manufacturers weave into carpets so they will attract dirt. The electrons travel through your bloodstream and collect in your finger, where they form a spark that leaps to your friends filling, then travel down his feet and back into the carpet. thus completing the circuit.

AMAZING ELECTRONIC FACT: If you scuffed your feet long enough without touching anything, you would build up so many electrons that your finger would explode! But this is nothing to worry about unless you have carpeting.

Although we modern persons tend to take our electric lights, radios, mixers, etc for granted, hundreds of years ago people did not have any of these things, which is just as well because there was no place to plug them in. Then along came the first Electrical Pioneer, Benjamin Franklin, who flew a kite in a lightning storm and received a serious electrical shock. This proved that lightning was powered by the same force as carpets, but it also damaged Frnklin's brain so severely that he started speaking only in incomrpehensible maxims, such as "A penny saved is a penny earned. Eventually he had to be given a job running the postoffice.

After Franklin came a herd of Electrical Pioneers whose name have become part of our electrical terminology: Myron Volt, Mary Louis Amp, James Watt, Bob Transformer, etc. These pioneers conducted many important electrical experiments. Among them, Galvani discovered(this is the Truth) that when he attached to different kinds of metal to the leg of a frog, an electrical current developed and the frog's leg kicked, even though it was no longer attached to the frog, which was dead anyway. Galvani's discovery lead to enormous advances in the field of amphibian medicine. Today, skilled veterinary surgeons can take a frog that has been seriously injured or killed, implant pieces of metal in its muscles, and watch it hop back into the pond just like a normal frog except for the fact that it sinks like a stone.

But the greatest Electrical Pioneer of them all was Thomas Edison, who was a brilliant inventor despite the fact that he had little formal education and lived in New Jersey. Edison's first major invention in 1877 was the phonograph, which could soon be found in thousands of American homes, where it basically sat until 1923 when the record was invented. But, Edison's greatest achievement came in 1879 when he invented the electric company. Edison's design was a brilliant adaptation of the simple electric circuit: The electric company sends electricity through a wire to a

customer, then immediately gets the electricity back through another wire, then(this is the brilliant part) sends it right back to the customer again.

This means that an electric company can sell a customer the same batch of electricity thousands of times a day and never get caught, since very few customer take the time to examine their electricity closely. In fact the last year any new electricity was generated in the United states was 1937; the electric companies have been merely been re-selling it ever since, which is why they have so much free time to apply for rate increases.

Today, thanks to men like Edison and Franklin, and frogs like Galvani's, we receive almost unlimited benefits from electricity. For example in the past decade scientists developed the laser, and electric appliance so powerful that it can vaporize a bulldozer 2,000 yards away, yet so precise that doctors can use it to perform delicate operations on the human eyeball, provided they remember to change the power setting from "Vaporize Bulldozer" to "Delicate."

(Your Editor's Notes: don't know where I found this article anymore so can't give the right person credit for it, however, you can't boot up your Atari computer unless you have juice. Any body has any Atari articles turn them into me and I will print them for you the members.)



800XL BASIC DISABLER

The following set of instructions will help 800XL owners create an AUTORUN.SYS file which will automatically disable BASIC:

1) Boot DOS with the OPTION key (i.e. without BASIC);
2)Put a disk containing DOS in the drive;
3)Using 'K. BINARY SAVE', respond to the prompt with 'AUTORUN.SYS,D301,D301'.

If you already have an AUTORUN.SYS file on the disk, rename it 'AUTORUN.OLD' before creating this file, then append it to this file using 'C. COPY FILE' and responding to the prompt with 'AUTORUN.OLD,AUTORUN.SYS/A'.

The wise man has long ears, big eyes and a soft tongue.

JULY 6,1995
MEETING
NOTES

Meeting called to order and opened in due form by President Art Paolini Jr.

V.P. Jon Mordosky passed around a copy of March-April Classic Magazine for everyone to look at. Items are still coming from Europe for use on the 8-bit, also more games for the Jaguar.

Paul Moatz reported that Barbara Marks has two very good printers for sale, anyone interested should contact her.

Motion made and seconded to give new members six months free membership before they have to pay their regular dues. Motion carried.

Art reported on NEARUS meeting held on June 17th at the place where the Ol'Hacker's meet in Long Island, had a great Swap Meet and a great meeting too, Art purchased various items of equipment as did Jon and little Jon brought the Atari Portfolio along to the meeting and it is really a very neat computer. The next NEARUS meeting is scheduled for October 7th over where the Long Island Computer Club holds their meetings.

Art demoed the club disk for July which is a great disk on Nutruition and Diet.

Jon had the St hooked up and the young ones were playing games on it after the meeting.

Thanks to Don Stanmore for making the copies of printer instruction sheets that he made for all the club members.

That is all the meeting notes for tonight folks.

Larry Tischbein
Recording Secretary

RESOURCES FOR
VINTAGE MODEL
ATARI COMPUTERS

Atari 8-bit computers. Send e-mail to Michael Current (keeper of Atari's frequently asked questions file, or FAQ, and vendor list) at mcurrent@carleton.edu, or Len Stys at xx004@cleveland.freenet.edu. If you're not on-line, send a self addressed, stamped envelipe to Cleveland Free-Net Atari SIG,P.O.Box 364, Mentor, Ohio 44061-0364. The group also maintins a Web page (http://ace.cs.ohiou.edu/personal/mlair/cain.html) with links to other Atari resources worldwide.

Good character, like good soup is usually homemade.

You will never stumble on anything good while sitting.

He who stands tallest, kneels the most.



DISK DRIVE MAINTENANCE

by Russell Stowe

A possible answer to a few questions that have been asked about disk drives:

First-let me quote and old addage---"If it ain't broke don't fix it." Now on to more serious thoughts and work.

If your drive is acting strange you can first try to clean the heads. I do not recommend that the average person attempt to disassemble a drive and try to clean it. In this case you can use a disk head cleaner with caution, follow the instructions on the package exactly and do not let your drive over 10 or 15 seconds with the disk cleaner in it. After using it let your drive sit for about 10 or 15 minutes to let the head dry out completely or you may ruin a program disk. I personally do not think a drive should be cleaned over once a year unless you live in a dust bowl. In other words, keep your drive covered witha dust proof cover (plastic or leather) when not in use.

Now for you who are handy witha screwdrive etc., and use caution when working around delicate equipment. First remove the cover from your drive so that you can see the working parts of the drive. Generally the head is set in an octagonal holder; the head looks like two straight bars. Using a lint free "Q-tip" or equivalent and DENATURED alchohol, wet the swab with the alchohol and gently wipe the head with it(USE NO PRESSURE). Let the head dry and reassemble your case on your drive again. Again I do not recommend cleaning over once a year.

Now for everyone: NEVER try to clean a drive head by going through the disk slot. It is very easy to knock the head out of alignment or damage other components.

If the cleaner does not correct your problems you may need a new pressure pad or the heads may need aligning, both jobs for a skilled techician.

Another thing about your drive: Yes you can damage it by having it too close to a TV or monitor. The recommended distance is 12 inches. A board will not stop the R.F. waves emitting from either. The only thing that will work is a piece of lead sheet about 3/8 inches thick and the size of the top, bottom, or side of your TV(depending on where your drive is located in relation to it) or a grounded sheet metal guard.

Also you can damage your disks by having them too close to your TV, etc. The sames rules apply as in the disk drive.

I hope this information can or will help some of you who have been asking about these things. (Editor's note: this article reproduced from the February 1995 issue of (FR)ANTIC the Official newsletter of the Alamo Area Atari User Association 8-bit User Group Newsletter.)

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LEHIGH VALLEY ATARI USERS GROUP
Meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 P.M. at their
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